HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 748
By Shaw

A RESOLUTION to affirm and support the use of the words "Christmas" and "Merry Christmas" when referring to events or activities traditionally associated with Christmas.

WHEREAS, Christmas is a federal holiday celebrated on December 25; and

WHEREAS, the word "Christmas" is derived from the act of celebrating the Mass of Christ, which appears in Old English text dating back to 1038; and

WHEREAS, as recorded by history, Jesus Christ was a man who was born over 2,000 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the extraordinary life and teachings of Jesus have profoundly impacted much of the world and especially the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Code regulations concerning the celebration of Christmas as a legal holiday are mirrored throughout the United States, with Alabama having the distinction of being the first state to declare Christmas a legal holiday, doing so in 1836; by 1907, Oklahoma rounded out the list of then-established states by enacting a declaration of its own; and

WHEREAS, according to a recently completed national survey, 90 percent of Americans consider themselves Christians; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Americans are not offended by use of the words "Christmas" and "Merry Christmas," but rather give and receive love, hope, comfort, and joy to and from one another by using those words; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly states that it affirms and supports the use of the words "Christmas" and "Merry Christmas" instead of non-descript,

general terms such as "Happy Holidays" when referring to events or activities traditionally associated with Christmas; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby affirms and supports the use of the words "Christmas" and "Merry Christmas."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.